

REMARKS

The final Office Action dated December 3, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully studied. Claims 1-28 are currently pending, plus new claim 29. The independent claims are method claim 1 and system claim 15. All of the claims are rejected, except for claim 12 which is indicated to be allowable if placed in independent form, and therefore claim 12 is now placed in independent form.

Claim 28 Introduces No New Matter

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for introducing new matter. However, the final Office Action has not addressed FIG. 3 of the present application (which Applicant referred to at page 9 of the previous response). In present FIG. 3, the programming input signal 304 is the only programming input in the entire figure, and moreover this programming input is shown in FIG. 3 as coming from the user. This fully supports claim 28. FIG. 3 is further discussed at the last full paragraph on page 8 of the application as originally filed. Applicant does not perceive why this support might be insufficient. Applicant would also like to respectfully point out that the training signal 332 does not provide any programming input, and instead is provided to display equipment 313 and presentation equipment 380. This enables the user, instead of the training means 330, to provide the programming input, which again supports claim 28.

New Claim 29 Introduces No New Matter and Is Not Obvious

New claim 29 says programming the programmable logic controller to solve the programming difficulties is accomplished by programming input that comes from the user. This is fully supported by FIG. 3 and the accompanying description of FIG. 3 in the application. Programming the programmable logic controller to overcome the difficulties is plainly not done by anyone or anything other than the user, according to FIG. 3.

Applicant respectfully points out that the Response to Arguments (at page 5 of the final Office Action) acknowledges that the show-me feature of *Chiang* performs the next-step or action of the programming process. *Chiang* plainly does not teach or suggest that the next-step or action (i.e. to overcome the difficulties) comes from the user, as claimed in new claim 29.

The Present Independent Claims 1 and 15 are Not Obvious

Independent claims 1 and 15 are again rejected as obvious from *Chiang* (U.S. Patent No. 5,535,422) in view of *Mustafa* (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0059378 A1).

Applicant respectfully emphasizes that present claim 1 says the invention is for “assisting the user to proceed with programming the programmable logic controller.” This is very different from *Chiang* (column 18, lines 65-67) which says that the “users may request the tutorial to perform the correct next action.” There is no teaching or suggestion in *Chiang* or any of the other cited references for the correct next action to be performed by the user instead of by the tutorial.

Moreover, present claim 1 discloses “the training resources . . . assisting the user to proceed with programming.” *Chiang* does not disclose assisting the user to proceed with programming, and instead discloses doing the programming without the user.

Applicant notes that the final Office Action acknowledges “that neither the *Chiang* et al nor *Mustafa* inventions are directly drawn to the ‘software for programming a programmable logic controller.’” In fact, these references do not even address programming at all, much less programming a PLC, and instead they are directed at using a software product rather than programming a device.

It is precisely the need to address programming a PLC that has led to the present claimed invention, and which accounts for the patentably distinct features of the present claimed invention, including the need for a user to do the programming instead of the programming being done automatically when the user is unable. The present invention can provide suggestions and detect formatting errors, but cannot do the programming on its own,

which is why the user must provide the programming input. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims are allowable, and therefore the claims depending therefrom (i.e. claims 2-11, 13-14, and 16-28) should also be allowed.

CONCLUSION

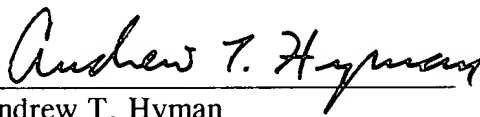
For the reasons explained, it is earnestly requested that the finality be withdrawn, that the application be reconsidered, and that the claims be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner please contact Applicant's attorney by telephone, if doing so might facilitate or expedite examination of the present application.

It is submitted that early passage of the present claims to issuance would be appropriate according to the relevant statutes and regulations, in view of the novel and useful invention claimed by the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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